

ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2016-2017

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE POLICY AND PROGRAMS

***MISSION:** The mission of the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council is to provide leadership in planning, funding, and implementing initiatives that lead to improved quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change.*

Project SEARCH Statewide Expansion

During 2017, South Carolina’s Project SEARCH partners opened new internship sites at three locations. These include Richland School District One, Embassy Suites; Greenville School District, Bon Secours St. Francis; and York School District 4, Piedmont Medical Center. Additionally, two more sites were identified for funding that began July 1, 2017 - Richland Two and Darlington.

Project SEARCH is a nationally recognized, evidence-based career development program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The model brings together school districts, vocational rehab counselors, job coaches, and businesses to create rotating internships for students in their last year of high school.

In 2017, approximately 40 students with intellectual and developmental disabilities began internships in the medical or hospitality industries in South Carolina. In addition to providing career exploration and experience for student interns. Project SEARCH also increases collaboration among a variety of systems that support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Project SEARCH partners participated in the first statewide conference during the summer to provide opportunities for professionals to share successes and ideas and collaborate on programming for the upcoming year. Approximately 75 professionals participated in the first event. Bon Secours was our host for this event.



SOUTH CAROLINA PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2017:

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS, EMPLOYMENT, SELF-ADVOCACY

COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities have access to their own choice of formal and informal community-based services, supports, resources, and activities throughout their lifetime.

Objective 1: Support at least two programs that provide people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families information about their rights, services, and supports.

- **Family Connection – Free to Be Me**
- **Able South Carolina – SC Supported Decision Making Project**
- **Greenville Health System – SC Medical Legal Partnership**
- **Brain Injury Association – SC Visibility Project**

Objective 2: Support at least two programs that provide people with intellectual and developmental disabilities opportunities to improve community integration, inclusion, and productivity.

- **AccessAbility Disability Resource Center – Independent Living Skills**
- **Arc of the Midlands – Kick It**
- **Arc of South Carolina – Everyday Living**
- **Babcock Center – Go Do Life**
- **Current Transitions – Eagle Project**
- **Greenville Health System – UCAN: Community**
- **York Adult Enrichment Center – Prevocational Readiness Project**
- **Arc of the Midlands – Mixed Greens**

Objective 3: Support at least one program that addresses an emerging health issue for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities using evidence-based practices and interventions.

- **Arc of South Carolina – Life Lessons**
- **SOS Health Care, Inc. – Fit for Life**
- **Medical University of South Carolina – Piece It Together**
- **Francis Marion University – Enhanced Nursing Education for Patients Living with Developmental Disabilities**

Objective 4: Support at least one program that includes an organization serving South Carolina’s Latino/Hispanic community and improves access to community-based services, supports, resources, and activities.

- **Family Connection of South Carolina – Latinos Making Connections**

EMPLOYMENT

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities have access to competitive, community-based career opportunities throughout their lifetime.

Objective 1: Support programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that improve access to integrated workforce development systems.

- **Arc of the Midlands – The Arc @ Work**
- **District 5 Lexington-Richland Counties – District Five Transition Services Assessment**
- **Able South Carolina – R.I.S.E. (Rallying for Inclusive, Successful Employment)**
- **University of South Carolina Department of Educational Studies - Project Connect**
- **Center for Disability Resources, University of South Carolina – Expansion of the Transition Alliance of South Carolina**

Objective 2: Support programs that empower people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to develop and direct their own career strategy using appropriate evidence-based and best practice methods.

- **Able South Carolina – Project Inclusion**
- **Arc of the Midlands – Project SEARCH**
- **Arc of the Midlands - Project SEARCH SC Statewide Strategy**
- **Arc of the Midlands – Student Success Jobs Program**
- **Arts Access South Carolina – Project R.E.A.L.**
- **Clover School District – Ready, Set, Go to Work**
- **Project Hope – HOPE GED Program**
- **Charleston County School District – Recipe for Success**
- **Oconee County School District – Transition Student Employment Program**

QUALITY ASSURANCE/SELF-ADVOCACY

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families are empowered to effect statewide leadership training opportunities that contribute to active participation in cross disability leadership coalitions and systems change efforts.

Objective 1: Support at least one statewide self-advocacy organization led by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to provide opportunities for increasing leadership abilities and to meet self-defined organizational goals.

- **Center for Disability Resources – Impact SC**
- **Able South Carolina - EQUIP – Self-Advocacy & Leadership in Young Adults**

Objective 2: Support opportunities that strengthen leadership abilities in peer-to-peer networks of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

- **Able South Carolina – YLF (Youth Leadership Forum)**
- **Arc of the Midlands – Let’s Talk**
- **Partners in Policymaking®**

Objective 3: Support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family members to engage cross-disability, culturally diverse leadership boards, committees, commissions, councils, and similar coalitions.

- **Able South Carolina/University of South Carolina Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics – Community Leadership Academy**

Objective 4: The Developmental Disabilities Council will collaborate with South Carolina’s Center for Disability Resources (UCEDD) and Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities in South Carolina (P&A System) on at least one program that engages system beneficiaries to assess system barriers and influence positive changes in service delivery, policies, interventions, and strategies.

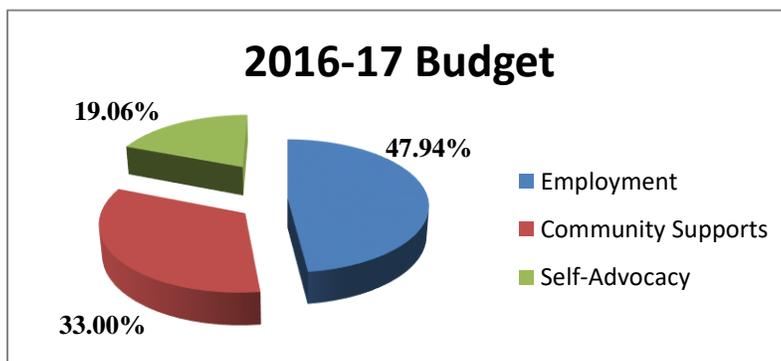
- **Supported Decision Making Trainings and Meetings with Jonathan Martinis**
- **Home and Community Based Workgroup and Committees**

IMPACT - Self-Advocates Making a Difference



Members of IMPACT SC continue to develop their leadership skills to advocate for themselves and help others with intellectual and developmental disabilities learn how to advocate for themselves. Participants from around the state gather every other month to ensure the core focus from various conferences attended are taught to their peers and other self-advocacy leaders throughout the state. IMPACT members have become active in Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) activities, including leadership positions. They have presented and exhibited at conferences including the SC Human Services Providers and SC American Association of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (SCAAIDD) to make their voices heard.

2016-2017 DD Council Budget Spending



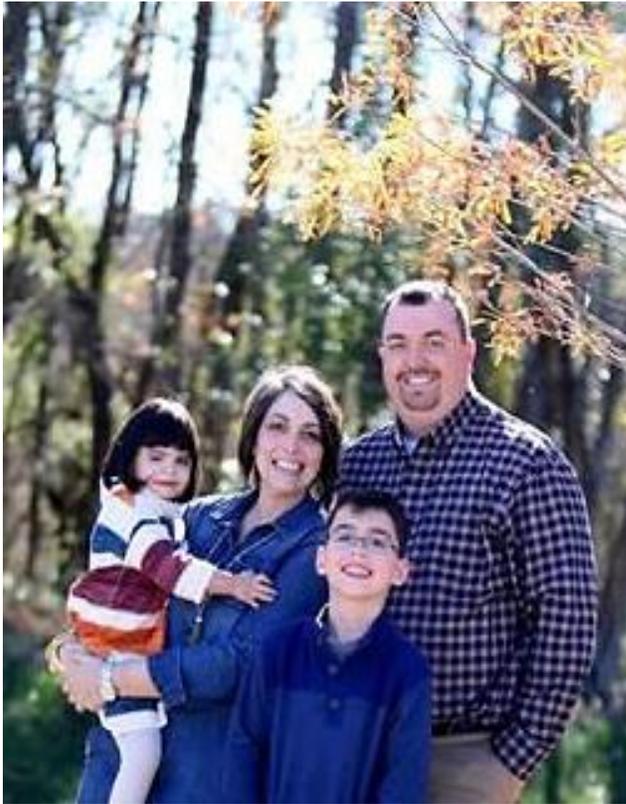
Employment	\$455,299	47.94%
Community Supports	313,339	33.00%
<u>Self-Advocacy</u>	<u>181,017</u>	<u>19.06%</u>
	\$949,655	100.00%

2016-2017 Grant Year
Total Spending = \$949,655.00

DD Council Statewide Impact

- **7,793 People around the state participated in Council supported activities.**
- **100 People with disabilities are serving on boards/committees/coalitions.**
- **156 Evidence based practices were utilized and implemented through various grants.**
- **89 Policy changes took place including the Parenting Bill and High School Credential.**

SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON



The DD Council and staff have worked hard this past year moving to meet our goals from our five-year state plan, (2017-2021). I am pleased that we are making progress in our areas of emphasis. I would like to say a special thank you to our stakeholders and collaboration partners for their tireless efforts in advocating for people with disabilities. The Council is growing stronger and our voice is getting louder as we partner and advocate together for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families in South Carolina.

As a parent with a child with a disability, I am honored to be able to continue to serve as the Chairperson of The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council. As our grantees reach into the lives of the people with disabilities around the state, the Council shares in their successes and struggles. As I see my own child struggle through and successfully navigate her disabilities as a part of her daily life, I find myself being taught that her strengths far exceed my own. The joy in her eyes and the drive in her heart inspire me. These are things that cannot be measured or placed in an evidence-based category. The stories of triumphs are endless and not all of them can be told. But as we hear about a mother who

is brought to tears when a child recognizes and asks if she can help. The Council understands the push behind what it took for an individual with a disability to make that effort. They understand the programs we support serve a purpose in aiding in improved livelihoods, better health, increased participation, stronger alliances among disability collaborators, stronger voices in advocacy, and an increase in leadership roles on boards and with collaboration partners. I want to say a special thank you to each and every one for their amazing contributions!

Frank Bentley



The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council and staff hard at work.... reviewing grants!

Executive Director



Message from the Executive Director

This year has been a whirlwind of challenges, opportunities and successes. Our grantees continue to provide quality programs and amazing outcomes. We were proud to have two of our grant programs be selected to present at our national conference in 2017. Thank you to Able-SC-EQUIP: Self-Advocacy & Leadership in Young Adults (Erica Powell & Derrick Means) and SOS Healthcare, Inc. - "Fit for Life" (Sarah Pope and Diane Owens) for traveling to Salt Lake City, Utah to present! You were a huge hit with attendees of the conference.

I want to personally thank our dedicated Council members, grantees, and collaborators who share the passion to continue to make a difference in the great state of South Carolina for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.

Valarie Bishop

SOUTH CAROLINA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL

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Ms. Cheryl Allen
Mr. Joseph "Joey" Barefoot
Mrs. Michelle Barefoot
Mrs. Susan Beck
Ms. Dianne S. Bennett
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Ms. Kristy Caldwell

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